श्री प्यारेलाल खण्डेलवाल (मध्य प्रदेश) : सभापति जी, आपकी 76 वी वर्षगांठ के उपलक्ष्य मे मैं अपनी ओर से और अपने दल की ओर से आपको बहुत बहुत शुभकामनाएं अर्पित करता हूं और ईश्वर से प्रार्थना करता हूं कि देश की सेवा के लिए आपको लम्बा, दीर्घायु प्रदान करे ।

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN MISHRA (Bihar): Sir, we wish you on your birthday a happy prosperous life and many more years of service to the nation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Sir, women have always been associate in our country with all auspicious occasions Today being on auspicious occasion, on my behalf and on behalf of other lady Members here, I pray to God that He may grant you long, useful and healthy life.

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE (Nominated): On behalf of nominated Members I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my honourable colleagues and I wish you a long, peaceful and active life giving us guidance in the right direction.

संसदीय कार्य राज्यमंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी) : मान्यवर, आज मुझे आपके 75 वे जन्म दिवस पर बधाई देते हुए इसलिए भी गर्व हो रहा है कि आप स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के बहुत बड़े सैनानी रहे है और आज भी देश के सर्वोत्तम स्थान पर आकर उस रोशनी को प्रज्जवलित रखे हुए है। इसलिए मैं आपको बधाई देता हूं।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश : सभापति महोदय, मैं भी देश के समस्त किसानों की तरफ से आपके दीर्घजीवी, यशस्वी, तेजस्वी होने की शुभकामननाएं करता हूं। मैं जानता हूं कि ज्यादा उमर बताना पोलिटिक्स में आजकल खतरनाक है, फिर भी मैं आपकी लम्बी आयु की कामना करता हूं। इन शब्दों के साथ फिर मैं चाहता हूं कि आपका यश दिनों-दिन बढ़ता रहे और इस सदन का यश भी आपके साथ होगा ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank you all very much warmly and sincerely. I think everyone of you would wish that I had a birthday every day, because I have been liberal in calling everybody which I do not do otherwise.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Otherwise, nothing will go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today everything said will go on record. It is good to remember a person of my age of the balding pate, tottering legs, diminishing vision and hearing. I am very grateful to all of you for the very nice things you have said about me. All that I can say is that, I shall try to deserve what you have said.

Now, we will take up Questions. Q. No. 221.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New technology for road building

*221. SHRI G. VARADARAJ:
SHRI M. KADHARSHA:†

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new technology for road building has been evolved by a Bombay firm;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that low cost road building technology was used in Madras; and

(d) if so, by when this technology is likely to be tried in other States?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) to (d) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table of the House.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. Kadharsha.

Statement

The question does not specify the 'new technology'. In all probability, the Hon'ble Members have the technology of recycling of road surface in mind. In that case, it is not a fact that this new technology has been evolved by any Bombay firm. It is, however, reported that some private firms in Bombay have imported equipment for doing recycling work.

Recycling is an attempt to re-utilise the stone aggregate and bitumen available in the existing bituminous road surface, either in part or in full, after mixing it again with fresh materials. Special recycling equipments, not at present manufactured in India, are required for this. Saving in cost have been claimed in other countries where recycling is done on large scale.

As regards low cost road technology used in Madras, the Hon'ble Members are probably referring to the recycling work for which a private firm in Madras has only recently imported equipment.

These plants are more suited for city roads where thicker layers of bituminous surfacings are already available. Their utility and cost-effectiveness for our conditions are yet to be established. In case they prove economical, it can be expected that they may come to progressive use in other States.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Sir, I referred in the question about re-building technology, but somehow they have misinterpreted. Anyway, I am happy that the Honourable Minister has replied, but he has not given in his statement the reasons for not making recycling equipments in India itself?

Sir, the road length of India is 17,01,946 KMs. This new equipment —it is reported that it can relay one KM of road in one single day. Whereas the conventional pavers simply add a new layer over the existing road. This equipment recycles the old surface utilising the existing stones and bitumen. So if there is an advantage in utilising the bitumen and if it can save time and money in other countries—why it is not tried in India? Will there by any attempt from the Government?

SHRI BANSI LAL: Sir, this equipment is practically utilised in the cities only where thick layer of the road is available. On other roads of the country, it is not useful at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Sir, the Honourable Minister has said that even in cities several roads are pending for repairs for the last two or three years. As a result of this accidents are occurring. The rate of accidents is highest in India in the whole world and Delhi has attained a dubious distinction of being the most accident prone city in the country. As the Hon'ble Minister has said, the attempt can be made, at least, in the metropolitan cities because the goods traffic has increased manifold, travel by tourist and pilgrims also have increased and the automobile industry has poised for a rapid growth, I would like to know whether the Government is going to make an attempt in the metropolitan cities?

SHRI BANSI LAL: Sir, the Ministry of Transport have already taken necessary steps for encouraging the use of re-cycling technique. The Ministry has requested all States and Union Territories to select streches of roads on which re-cycling can be tried.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Sir, we have been importing technique and machinery for the purposes of road construction. While I do not suggest that the techniques of colder countries should be imported, but definitely, we can import techniques and machinery from Soviet Union, who have devised new methods of construction of roads and climatic conditions are also similar to India. Whether the Minister will consider importing such techniques and machinery from the Soviet Union?

SHRI BANSI LAL: I have not followed the question.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Sir, it is regarding the techniques which we have been importing. I do not suggest that you import from Americans and other colder countries but Soviet Union have better techniques and machinery. Will the Hon. Minister import such techniques from Soviet Union which will suit our climatic conditions as well?

SHRI BANSI LAL: Sir, we have not imported any technique. Only some firms in Madras and Bombay have imported such equipment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said whether the equipment will be imported from Soviet Union, where, according to him, the technique is better.

SHRI BANSI LAL: That we will consider.

SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, throughout the country, road building has become a greatest racketing and spending money. Everywhere the contracts are given and they consume money only but the road building is never completed within the targeted time. I would, therefore, urge the Hon'ble Minister to take necessary steps to avoid middleman and contractors in foad building and fix targets for completion of the works.

SHRI BANSI LAL: It is State Subject Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question 222. Shri M. Basavaraju.

*222. [*The questioner (Shri M. Basavaraju) was absent. For answer, vide col. 34 infra*].

Opening of University in the name of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar

*223. DR. R. K. PODDAR:†
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government have agreed to abide by all the terms and conditions of the University Grants Commission for the opening of a University in the name of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar with some of unique features not yet introduced in any of the existing universities;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in releasing financial grant so far;

(c) by when the financial grant is likely to be released; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the UGC, the Government of West Bengal has not yet fulfilled the terms and conditions prescribed in the rules framed under the UGC Act to declare the University fit to receive assistance, and that grants could be released only after the conditions are fulfilled and the University is declared fit to receive grants.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: Sir, I think, the Minister's reply is not very informative. On 20th of September, 1985, the Education Minister of the State of West Bengal declared in the Legislative Assembly that West Bengal Government have fulfilled all the terms and conditions laid down by the U.G.C. and has expressed regret that in spite of repeated reminders and requests, no funds are forthcoming from the U.G.C. Now, I would like the Minister to be kind enough to clarify the situation and specify what specific terms and conditions are not being fulfilled by the Government and what is the amount of funds involved?

SMT. SUSHILA ROHTAGI: Sir, on the basis of the latest information that the UGC has, we find that though

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. R. K. Poddar.